

IN THE CLAIMS:

12. (original) A method for impeding the counterfeiting of an instrument having top and bottom surfaces defining a space therebetween comprising the step of:
- forming random optical patterns in one of (a) said top surface, (b) said bottom surface and (c) the space between said top and bottom surfaces, whereby each instrument has a different optical pattern and corresponding spectral response than any other instrument.
13. (original) A method as claimed in claim 12 wherein the instrument is an optical data storage disc having a region which is translucent and wherein the step of forming random optical patterns includes distributing a multiplicity of strands randomly between the top and bottom surfaces within said translucent region.
14. (original) A method as claimed in claim 13 wherein the strands are opaque fibers.
15. (original) A method as claimed in claim 12 wherein the instrument is an optical data storage disc having a region which is translucent and wherein the step of forming random optical patterns includes etching or laser burning a multiplicity of randomly selected points on one of the top and bottom surfaces within said translucent region.
16. (original) A method as claimed in claim 12 wherein said instrument is an optical data storage disc having a first annular region extending a given distance from the center of the disc and having a second annular region

extending between the first annular region and the edge of the disc, wherein said first annular region is translucent and said second annular region is for the storing of data to be read; and wherein the step of forming random patterns includes the step of distributing a multiplicity of strands randomly between the top and bottom surfaces within said first annular region.

17. (original) A method as claimed in claim 16 wherein said strands are opaque fibers.
18. (original) A method as claimed in claim 12 wherein said instrument is an optical data storage disc having a first annular region extending a given distance from the center of the disc and having a second annular region extending between the first annular region and the edge of the disc, wherein said first annular region is translucent and said second annular region is for the storing of data to be read; and wherein the step of forming random patterns includes the step of etching or laser burning a multiplicity of randomly selected points on one of the top and bottom surfaces within said translucent region.
19. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 12 further including the steps of:
 - illuminating the ear instrument for producing a signal pattern indicative of the random pattern within the instrument;
 - sensing the signal pattern corresponding to the random pattern; and

encoding information corresponding to the signal pattern on an information storage medium located on the instrument.

20. (original) In an optical data storage disc having a central region with a first translucent annular region surrounding the central region and having a second region surrounding the first region, said second region for storing information to be read by a reading device, the improvement comprising: a random optical pattern formed within said first region for producing a spectral response within the first translucent region of the disc which is different from that of any other disc.
21. (original) In an optical data storage disc as claimed in claim 20, wherein information pertaining to the random optical pattern present in the first translucent region is stored in the second data storage region.
22. (original) In combination with an optical data storage disc as claimed in claim 20 further including:
 - means for sensing selected characteristics of the random optical pattern formed in the first region and encoding data corresponding thereto within said second region of the disc; and
 - means for subsequently sensing the pattern formed within the first region and for reading the corresponding encoded data within the second region to validate the disc.

23. (original) A combination for impeding the counterfeiting of an optical data storage disc comprising:

an optical data storage disc having a central region with a first translucent annular region surrounding the central region and having a second region surrounding the first region, said second region for storing information to be read by a reading device;

means for forming a random optical pattern within said first region;

means for sensing selected characteristics of the random optical pattern formed in the first region and encoding data corresponding thereto within said second region of the disc; and

means for subsequently sensing the pattern formed within the first region and for reading the corresponding encoded data within the second region to validate the disc.

24. (original) A combination as claimed in claim 23 wherein said means for forming a random optical pattern within said first annular region includes the placement of opaque strands within said first region.

25. (currently amended) A combination as claimed in claim 23 wherein said ~~opaque strands are opaque optical fibers~~ optical disc has top and bottom surfaces, and wherein the random optical pattern is formed between the top and bottom surfaces.

26. (original) A combination as claimed in claim 23 wherein said means for forming a random optical pattern within said first annular region includes

one of etching and laser scribing selected portions of the first annular region of the disc.

27. (currently amended) A system for impeding the counterfeiting of an optical data storage disc comprising:
- an optical data storage disc having a central region with a first translucent annular region surrounding the central region and having a second region surrounding the first region, said second region for storing information to be read by a reading device;
- means for forming an arbitrary a random optical pattern within said first region for altering the spectral response of the first region;
- means for sensing selected characteristics of the arbitrary random optical pattern formed within the first region and encoding data corresponding thereto within said second region of the disc; and
- means for subsequently sensing the pattern formed within the first region and for reading the corresponding encoded data within the second region to determine the validity of the disc.

28. (currently amended) A combination system as claimed in claim 27 wherein said means for forming an arbitrary a random optical pattern within said first annular region includes the placement of opaque strands within said first region.

29. (currently amended) A combination system as claimed in claim 27 wherein said means for forming an arbitrary random optical pattern within

said first annular region includes one of etching and laser scribing selected portions of the first region.

ADD THE FOLLOWING NEW CLAIMS:

30. (new) The method as claimed in claim 12 wherein the instrument includes a portion for storing data and wherein the step of forming the optical pattern on or within the instrument occurs simultaneously with the step of writing data into the portion of the instrument intended for the storing of data.
31. (new) A method as claimed in claim 12 wherein said instrument is an optical data storage disc having a first annular region extending a given distance from the center of the disc and having a second annular region extending between the first annular region and the edge of the disc, wherein said first annular region is translucent and said second annular region is for the storing of data to be read; and wherein the step of forming random optical patterns in one of (a) said top surface, (b) said bottom surface and (c) the space between said top and bottom surfaces occurs at the same time as the step of writing data to be stored; the random optical patterns being formed within the first annular region and the data to be stored being written in the second annular region.
32. (new) In an optical storage disc as claimed in claim 20 wherein the random optical pattern is formed within said first region at the same time as the storing of information into said second region.

33. (new) A combination as claimed in claim 23 wherein the random optical pattern is formed within said first region at the same time as information to be read is stored in the second region.
34. (new) A system as claimed in claim 27 wherein said information to be read by said reading device is introduced into the disc at the same time as the random optical pattern is formed in said first region.